

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
Zoom Video Conference

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome: Ben (5 minutes)
2. Introductions: (5 minutes)
3. Review Agenda: (5 minutes)
4. CWCB Grant Update: Tamara (5 minutes)
 - a. Grant Extension
5. Discussion of Proposed Biocontrol Release Plan: Tamara (15 minutes)
6. Update on 2021 Landowner Permission Efforts: John, Geoff, Ben (15 minutes)
7. Approval of Final Goals for 2021 (See attachment): Group (15 minutes)
 - a. Review changes made to Draft Goals from December 9th meeting
8. Discussion of 2021 Outreach Plan: Group (20 minutes)
 - a. MC BCC presentation
 - b. RC BCC presentation
 - c. CWCB Youth Event
 - d. Landowner outreach
 - e. Landowner biocontrol outreach
 1. Landowner survey for RCCD meeting (Baili)
 - f. CO First Conservation District meeting handout(s) (Tamara, Ben)
9. Discussion of Future Theme Based Presentation for Next Meeting: Group (15 minutes)
10. Partner Plans and Updates for 2020 Leafy Spurge Management: Group (15 minutes)
 - a. CWCB Grant
 - b. Friends of the Yampa Donations Account
 - c. Routt County Weed Program
 - d. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
 - e. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 - f. Yampa River State Park
 - g. BLM
 - h. CO State Land Board
 - i. NRCS
 - j. Dinosaur Nat Monument
 - k. MC CSU Extension
 - i. RC CSU Extension

11. Other (Group) 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday, April 14th at the Carpenter Ranch or By Zoom

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda

DraftGoals for 2021

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Final Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Working Group Members Present

Melody Villard, Moffat County Commissioner
Tony Bohrer, Moffat County Commissioner
Jesse Schroeder, MC Weed and Pest
Tiffany Carlson, RC Weed Program
Tyler Jacox, CO Parks and Wildlife
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen
Geoff Blakeslee, Routt County Citizen
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen
Emily Spenser, Dinosaur National Monument
Baili Foster, NRCS Steamboat Springs
Kendall Smith, NRCS Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties
Laurel Dietch, NRCS Craig
Lindsey Marlow, FOTY
Todd Hagenbuch, RC CSU Extension

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:05. He thanked everyone for participating. He announced that he would be recording the meeting.

Ben asked that everyone introduce themselves due to the fact that we have both of the newly elected Moffat County Commissioners, Melody Villard and Tony Bohrer, participating in our meeting today.

Ben asked if there were any changes or suggestions to the agenda, which had been shared by email. Hearing none, Ben informed the Group that we would follow the agenda as written.

First Discussion: CWCB Grant Update

As reported at the last meeting, Tamara Naumann said that Prof. Dan Tekiela is not with the University of Wyoming this year, but he is still on the committee overseeing Hannah's and Chloe's research. Hannah should finish up her report on her integrated management test sites by mid-June, but Chloe is so excited about her robust findings of leafy spurge from her remote satellite sensing that she wants to extend her research (without seeking new funding) through

next summer—including a visit to the Yampa Valley for groundtruthing, with a final report to be produced about a year from now.

Tamara reported that there is still a small amount of funding left in the Grant for the Education and Youth Biocontrol Event, which is scheduled for June 30 and July 1. The event will take place just east of the CDOT Rest Area at the parking lot of the Yampa River State Wildlife Area—where there are leafy spurge infestations close by.

Next week there will be an organizing Zoom call for the Youth Event, hosted by Jessica Counts (MC CSU Extension). The organizing committee is: Tamara, Jessica, Baili Foster, Chris Rhyne, Tyler Jacox, Laurel Dietch and Todd Hagenbuch.

Task1: Tamara, Pete and Group to meet with Chloe for groundtruthing of leafy spurge infestations detected from satellite data.

Task 2: Education and Youth Biocontrol Committee to organize Biocontrol Event for June 30 and July 1.

Second Discussion: 2021 Biocontrol Release Plan

Tamara related to the Group that she and Pete Williams had reviewed the mapping data from the legacy and recent leafy spurge beetle releases. She has picked 15 +/- proposed release sites. She would like to make sure we have permission from all the landowners before releasing the list. The list should be finalized by the next YRLSP meeting.

Tamara explained that the biocontrol goal is to rapidly boost the insects throughout the Yampa Valley. During the last couple of years, the YRLSP has attempted to saturate western Routt County. The 2021 goal is to release another 10,000 beetles. This year the majority of releases will be downstream on the Yampa River in Moffat County. In two of the proposed release locations, the Little Yampa Canyon (LYC) and Axial Basin, there have been beetles found but there have never been any documented releases. The proposed release sites include: Tepee Draw (Chris Rhyne), LYC (where BLM has completed all the required compliance requirements), Craig City property across from Loudy-Simpson (Jesse Schroeder), a site near Maybell, in the Axial Basin, and J Quarter Circle Ranch.

Ben asked Tamara to review past biocontrol releases for Melody Villard and Tony Bohrer. Tamara stated that over the past couple summers the YRLSP has released approximately 30,000 beetles with 23,000 released in 2020. Most of the 2020 releases were released in Routt County: Earle (10,000) and YRSWA (10,000).

Task 3: John Husband and Tamara to obtain 2021 permissions from property owners for 2021 biocontrol releases.

Task 4: Tamara to finalize the 2021 biocontrol release site list for the April YRLSP meeting.

Third Discussion: Update on 2021 Landowner Permissions

John Husband informed the Group that to date he has not made any contacts for permissions. He said that he had Pete's information and maps designating the permissions needed. He said that he had also found some of his lost 2020 permissions on his computer.

John didn't think that he had the landowner information for access needed for Chloe's groundtruthing. Pete said that the maps that he sent had been reviewed by Chloe and that she said that the properties were accurate.

Tamara said that one of the Chloe's sites was accessed by road along the Maybell Ditch through Darryl Steele's property. John said that he knows Darryl and that he is sure that he would be willing to help. Pete informed John that Darryl's property is one of those that we didn't have permission for last year. He would like to get permission so we can put the infestations seen from the river on our website maps. Also, Pete asked John to ask Darryl if we could map any other infestations that we see on his property.

Ben asked since we will not be doing site visits or mapping until May or June when do we need to have these landowner permissions. Tamara said that we need to plan and set our schedule for this summer. Ben asked the Group if we have all our permissions by our April meeting would that be sufficient. John thought that would be a good target.

Task 5: John to work on getting the landowner permissions for: 1. The 2021 mapping, 2. The properties where infestations were mapped in 2020 but we did not have landowner permissions, and 3. Chloe's groundtruthing her satellite data.

Task 6: John to get in touch with Geoff Blakeslee and Ben for help with obtaining the landowner permissions.

Fourth Discussion: Approval of Final YRLSP Goals for 2021

Ben shared the screen to show the 2021 Goals discussed at the December meeting. He explained that the changes made at the December meeting and changes suggested since then are shown in bold.

Below are the 2021 Goals. See discussions of changes made at end of document.

DRAFT YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT 2021 GOALS

1. Complete CWCB Grant in coordination with University of WY Plant Science Department (Group, UWY Grad Students Hannah and Chloe)
- 2. Work collaboratively with CSU Extension, BLM, CPW and NRCS to organize a Youth education field event June 29-July 1 that focuses on leafy spurge and biocontrol. (Tamara, Chris, Jessica, Tyler, Baili)**

3. Complete mapping of Yampa River leafy spurge infestations: 5 miles in Axial Basin above Juniper Campsite, Cross Mt. Canyon, and Cross Mt to Deerlodge. (Pete, Ben)
- 4. Complete an accuracy assessment of Chloe's leafy spurge satellite identification data (Pete, Tamara, Ben)**
5. Continue the outreach to landowners in Routt and Moffat Counties to educate and get their permissions for mapping and leafy spurge beetle releases. (Tiffany, Jesse, **Baili**, Group)
- 6. Obtain at least 10,000 biocontrol insects in collaboration with CDA and release on 10 new sites in priority areas. If more insects are available, they will be distributed to additional sites. Distribution will be determined with priority given to sites that support the objective of boosting biocontrol insect populations throughout the entire Yampa River corridor, with emphasis in 2021 on Little Yampa Canyon, Axial Basin and Dinosaur National Monument. (Biocontrol volunteer group, John Kaltenbach)**
- 7. Biocontrol outreach event. Collaborate with NRCS and county weed staff to organize a field tour of biocontrol sites for private landowners in July. (Tamara, Bali, Tiffany, Jesse, Kindle, Group)**
8. Continue the updating of the YRLSP website (Pete)
9. Moffat County Weed and Pest to monitor the treatments on the Peroulis property on Four Mile Creek, and to report on the success of the different chemical treatments used. (Jesse)
10. Routt County Weed Program to continue to monitor the management of the leafy spurge infestation on **Iron Springs Ranch** near Stagecoach Reservoir. (Tiffany, Todd)
11. Continue Dinosaur National Monument leafy spurge mechanical removal and mapping of the leafy spurge infestations (Emily)
- 12. Continue to work with and support partners in their implementation of integrated leafy spurge management strategies. (Jesse, Chris, Tiffany, Baili)**
13. Organize the 2021 Show Me Float in Little Yampa Canyon for June 25–26. (John, Ben)
14. Reports to supporting organizations: YWGRT (Tamara), FOTY Board and **Yampa River Fest** (Ben), MC and RC BCC (Tim coordinate, Group), CDA (Ben), CO First Conservation Dist (Ben, **John**), **IWMP (Geoff)** and the YRLSP (John).
15. Create a Five Year YRLSP Report **with identifiable future projects and funding sources.** (Ben, Group)

Tamara said that Tiffany wanted changes to #10. Todd and Tiffany said that the change from naming Stetson to calling the ranch by its historical name, Iron Springs Ranch, works.

Tamara suggested that we delete Kendall from #7. Baili and Laurel will be able to represent NRCS.

Geoff (#14) related that since he is not involved with the IWMP process, he suggested that Lindsey Marlow, who is on the IWMP Committee, be the representative of the YRLSP. Lindsey agreed. Ben asked Lindsey to make sure that the interests of the YRLSP be included in the IWMP process.

These changes were made to the 2021 Goals above.

Tiffany advised the Group that she will be having a baby so that she will not be able to have “boots on the ground” during June and July. However, she would like to continue to work on the organization of the Biocontrol Event for Kids.

Ben asked for a motion of approval of the YRLSP 2021 Goals with changes. Tamara moved to approve and Geoff seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ben thanked everyone and said that we will review these Goals through 2021 and these will be used to create the YRLSP 2021 Accomplishments.

Fifth Discussion: 2021 Outreach Plan

Moffat County BCC presentation:

Ben said that he was glad that Melody and Tony are participating. He asked them if they have any preference on this presentation. Tony volunteered to talk to the MCBCC Chair if and when the presentation would be appropriate.

John said that he would be willing to pitch in and help with the presentation. He thought that it should be short with handouts. Ben thought that it would be better if the presentation would be in March.

Tony said that he would get in touch with John and coordinate with the March dates of the MCBCC meetings.

Tamara thought that a more general handout would work for the MCBCC. Ben suggested that we take a look at the handouts for the CO First Annual meeting to see if these would work. John was not aware of the handouts for the CO First Annual meeting.

Laurel explained that she has the three YRLSP handouts and that she had planned on making copies for the meeting. These were the Biocontrol handouts with survey. She related that she will make some changes to the signup sheet for attendees but the survey that Baili put together will be included for the virtual participants.

Ben asked Melody and Tony if there was anything specific that the MCBCC would like to hear in the presentation. Tony responded that maybe Jesse since he works with the MCBCC should be included.

Ben volunteered to work with John on a more general handout for the MCBCC meeting.

Task 7: Tony to check with the Chairman of the MCBCC to see when the YRLSP could update the MCBCC. He will coordinate with John to confirm the presentation and date.

Task 8: John volunteered to work on the presentation and handouts for the MCBCC meeting and will coordinate with Jesse.

Task 9: Ben volunteered to work on a general YRLSP handout to be used along with the handouts created for the CO First Conservation Dist Annual Meeting

Routt County BCC presentation:

Ben thought that the RCBCC meeting would be virtual and should be held after the MCBCC. Besides a YRLSP update he wanted to explain to the Commissioners why the YRLSP had not been able to use the funds that had been allocated by the RC Weed Board for use in 2020. Ben asked Tiffany if she would help with the presentation. She said that it usually takes two weeks to get on the agenda.

Task 10: Ben will work with Tiffany to schedule an update with the RCBCC.

CWCB Youth Event:

Tamara thought that she had covered this earlier in her CWCB update. See above.

Landowner Outreach and Landowner Biocontrol Outreach:

Ben emphasized the importance of YRLSP outreach. We had a meeting in Craig (2019) and in Maybell (2020).

Baili explained that she had written up 3 targeted questions for the RC Conservation Dist Annual Meeting asking if there was interest in follow-up regarding leafy spurge.

Tamara explained to the Group that she had talked with Baili and Laurel about the importance of meeting with landowners that were interested in the YRLSP regarding both biocontrol and what we have learned from chemical treatments used by Jesse and Tiffany.

Geoff asked Baili if there were any specific questions regarding biocontrol. Baili said that there were two questions on biocontrol similar to the questions that Laurel put in the CO First Dist meeting survey.

Geoff asked Baili if she had a list of landowners along the Yampa River. He thought that using this list would create a more targeted opportunity for interest in the YRLSP and biocontrol. Ben said that he had the lists of landowners in Routt County that John had put together when we were looking for access permissions. He volunteered to get this list with PO addresses and email addresses to Baili before the February 24th RCCD meeting,

Tamara wanted to give a “shout-out” to Moffat County and Jesse in a crazy budget year for setting aside \$1,500 for the YRLSP, which could be used for outreach, the Show Me Float, or biocontrol. The funds have been invoiced through FOTY and will be available soon.

Task 11: Ben to create a list of the RC Landowners who own property along the Yampa from Hayden to the County Line and send it to Baili so that the landowners will be included in the communications and survey of the RC Conservation Dist Annual Meeting.

Sixth Discussion: Future Theme-Based Presentation

Ben opened this discussion by explaining that at a meeting last Spring the Working Group had decided to go to a theme-based agenda for some of our meetings. Chris had given a Powerpoint presentation on the management of leafy spurge in Tepee Draw and BLM's involvement. This went over well.

Ben asked the Group if there were other topics that would be important for the Group. He said that from talking with Tamara and Baili that two topics came up: Biocontrol and J Quarter Circle Ranch as a model for leafy spurge management.

Tamara said that she could do an update on what the YRLSP has done in regards to biocontrol. Tiffany thought that this would be interesting and informational. She also thought that a report on the survey responses regarding leafy spurge biocontrol from the CO First Conservation Dist and RC Conservation Dist meetings would tie in with a biocontrol theme.

Ben expressed interest in the biocontrol theme and especially in: 1. What are indications that biocontrol is working in northwest Colorado; and 2. What happens with leafy spurge in Eastern Europe.

Tamara explained that in Europe leafy spurge is just a natural part of the environment like wild flowers in Colorado.

Baili thought that a biocontrol presentation would be interesting and that she could update the Group on what were the results from the surveys.

Tamara thought that a 20-minute presentation would work. Ben and Tamara will talk about a biocontrol presentation for the April meeting.

Ben asked the Group to keep thinking about other ideas and themes that would be interesting to pursue in the future.

Task 12: Tamara and Ben to talk about a Biocontrol Presentation for the April meeting.

Task 13: Ben to place on the April meeting agenda an update of the landowner surveys from CO First Conservation Dist and RC Conservation Dist Annual Meetings.

Seventh Discussion: Partner Updates

Friends of the Yampa:

Ben shared the screen with a spread sheet that Lindsey Marlow had put together showing donations, fees, and payments. The total balance in the account after the last payment to John for the PO Box is \$1,571.53.

Tamara asked if that included the \$1,500 from Moffat County. Ben responded that Lindsey told him that FOTY had not received the funds from MC.

RC Weed Program:

Tiffany said that she will be holding 4 days of on-line education classes in March and that the Inter-Agency Weed meeting is also coming up.

She also reported that she is working on a local Weed Management Plan with Stagecoach State Park, agencies that have adjacent public lands, and local landowners including Iron Springs Ranch.

MC Weed and Pest:

Jesse reported that he had talked to Matt Morteza and that he had given verbal permissions to access his property and for the release of leafy spurge beetles.

He had also talked to Hannah regarding her research for the CWCB Grant. She had said that one-year post treatment she had seen a reduction in the seed production on her test plots. Jesse said that this was good news. She had used a new chemical called Duracor, a combination of a low rate of Milestone and Rinskor (less than 1 %). This is the new product by Corteva. Jesse said that 1. It's the first new chemical released in the last 10 years, 2. The EPA awarded it a low-risk rating, and 3. It is affordable.

Ben asked if it was true that Milestone could not be used in riparian areas. Tamara responded that Duracor could be used up to the water's edge and thought that it is worth looking at spraying it in the flood plain after the water recedes. Jesse said that Duracor could open up the possibility of treating sites along the river.

Tiffany wondered if it would be possible to have Hannah give a presentation on her findings. Tamara said that she would touch base with Hannah to see if she could make a presentation at one of our meetings after she has finished her report.

Jesse asked if Hannah could give us a Plot Treatment Map of her test sites so the YRLSP could check on her sites over time on the Wagner property.

Task 14: Tamara to see if Hannah would be able to give a report on her findings to the Group.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife:

Tyler reported that he was not sure about summer plans but asked Jesse and Tiffany if had any treatments that they wanted to try on the YRSWA to let him know.

Yampa River State Park:

Tamara said that she had been in touch with Jacob Dewhirst and asked for a meeting. She would like to get YRSP to support this summer's biocontrol efforts with the use of their motorboat in LYC and Axial Basin. Also, she said he was interested in the Youth Event.

BLM:

Tamara has talked to Chris about assisting with the Youth Event. Chris has also said that she could meet to pick up the leafy spurge beetles and release them in Tepee Draw. Jesse volunteered to make the release in Tepee Draw if Chris can't do it.

Ben asked about the choosing of the release sites on BLM lands in LYC. Tamara said that the BLM sites would be chosen using Pete's LS maps from 2019, and the BLM has already completed all the compliance requirements for the releases.

CO State Land Board:

Tamara responded to a question from Ben regarding confirmation that one of the potential release sites was on SLB property leased by J Quarter Circle Ranch. The YRLSP will have to update the permission for 2021.

NRCS:

Baili reminded the Group about the RC Conservation Dist landowner virtual meeting on February 24 at 5:30pm.

Laurel reminded everyone about the CO First Dist Annual meeting next week. She put the link for those interested in the virtual meeting in the Chat Box.

Dinosaur National Monument:

Emily said that nothing had changed regarding the two scheduled leafy spurge work trips on May 23 and June 28.

She reported that DNM had received funding for an intern for three of her projects related to leafy spurge: 1. Organize and collect geospatial data on wildlife and plant species; 2. Mapping of high priority invasive species including the leafy spurge infestations; and 3. Develop a Story Map showing some of the DNM challenges.

Emily asked Pete if she could talk to him about his mapping, to be included in the Story Map. She would also like the intern to be able to participate in the YRLSP Show Me Float and the biocontrol releases.

Ben asked if Emily had found out if she could release the beetles collected in Colorado (with the help of CDA) in Island Park (in Utah). She said that she had talked to John Kaltenbach and that the beetles can be released across state lines.

RC CSU Extension:

Todd Hagenbuch said that since it had been so dry, which causes many challenges to ag producers, that there will be a webinar about the issue of bringing in out-of-state hay, which could potentially bring in invasive species.

Eighth Discussion: Other

Tamara asked if there had been any planning for the 2021 Show Me Float. John responded that it was still planned as a two-day trip in LYC on June 25–26. He said that nothing had been decided as to an invitee list but that he would start working on it. Ben volunteered to help with the organization and the trip.

Task 15: John and Ben to start planning for the 2021 Show Me Float and give an update at the next meeting.

Ben thanked everyone for attending.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: 10:00am Wednesday, April 14th at the Carpenter Ranch or by Zoom

Meeting Adjourned: 11:59